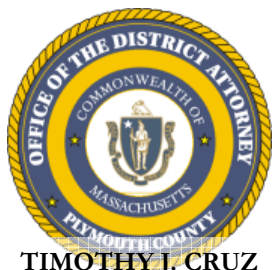


COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS – PLYMOUTH DISTRICT
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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
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BROCKTON, MA- Plymouth County District Attorney Timothy J. Cruz announced today that the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court released a decision in the matter of Commonwealth v. Jeffrey S. Roberio. The issue before the SJC was whether or not defendants convicted of murder committed prior to their eighteenth birthday, unlike anyone else seeking parole, are constitutionally entitled to public funds in conjunction with their efforts. In its decision, the SJC deemed it constitutionally required to make public resources available for court appointed counsel and for experts to appear on the defendant's behalf before the parole board.

Roberio and a co-defendant, Michael Eagles, were convicted separately for the July 29, 1986 murder of seventy nine year old Lewis Jennings inside his trailer home in Middleborough. Roberio, seventeen years and nine months old at the time of the offense, was convicted of first degree murder under theories of deliberate premeditation, felony murder, and extreme atrocity and cruelty. At trial, the evidence showed that the victim had been beaten with a blunt object and strangled with his own pillow case. He suffered a broken spine, ribs, neck, and had injuries to his face and defensive wounds on his hands.

There will be no further comment at this time.

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